

Brigade Aviation Element (BAE)

What is it?

The BAE is an organic cell in every Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), Heavy BCT (HBCT), and Stryker BCT (SBCT), and provides 24-hour operational capability to plan and synchronize aviation operations and Army Airspace Command and Control (A2C2) throughout the BCT's Area of Operation (AOR). The BAE consists of 13 personnel consisting of both Army Aviation and Air Defense Artillery (ADA) officers and Soldiers varying in rank from specialist / E-4 to major / O-4, including warrant officers. The BAE is equipped with the current array of Battle Command (BC) systems including the Tactical Airspace Integration System (TAIS), Air and Missile Defense Workstations (AMDWs), Aviation Mission Planning System (AMPS) and Maneuver Control System (MCS).

What has Army Aviation done?

The United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) continues to develop and refine the doctrine and Tactics Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) for BAEs. Recent analysis reveals that the BAE is a combat multiplier but can be more effective with additional training, full integration into the BCT training scheme and the assignment of the most qualified personnel to the critical positions. Doctrinally, every aviation publication that concerns BAE is under review or revision to capture the most contemporary roles of the BAE. Army Field Manual (FM) 3-52.1, *Multiservice Procedures for Integrated Combat Airspace Command and Control*, which is a multiservice publication, is one of the publications that captures the role of the BAE. This publication is a tactical-level document that helps to synchronize and integrate airspace command and control functions and serves as a single source reference for planners and commanders at all levels. It synchronizes airspace command and control roles and responsibilities within the campaign plan while unifying individual service doctrine and TTP for airspace control planning and execution. In addition, it provides planning, assignment, execution, and transition procedures to address specific complex and unique airspace coordinating measures. Additionally, Army Training Circular (TC) 1-400, *Brigade Aviation Element*, provides more information on the capabilities, structure, and mission of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) organizations that provides the BAE another source for airspace and resource management.

Organizationally, the 13-Soldier Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) structure appears to meet the requirements of the BCTs in our current Operating Environment (OE). The Air Defense Air Management (ADAM) / BAE structure is sufficiently robust to support full-spectrum missions and allows the commander the flexibility to tailor the cell to nearly any configuration depending on the mission. Recent additions include the 15Q Air Traffic Services (ATS) non-commissioned officer and the 150U UAS warrant officer.

While the BAE is a unique cell operating within the Operations / S3 staff section, the Army currently has not developed a specific resident school for these functions. However, the recent Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel and Facilities (DOTMLPF) analysis recommended exploration of a resident course given the resources and appropriate demand. Among other positive considerations, the resident course could contribute to the overall performance of the

ADAM/BAE cell. Analysis continues regarding the development of a resident course at the Fires Center based on demand from the field and TRADOC resources. The necessary resources from TRADOC are essential to ensure a proposed resident course is capable of providing the appropriate training and expertise for these organizations.

What continued efforts does Army Aviation have planned for the future?

USAACE has conducted four separate ADAM / BAE MTTs with the most recent occurring in November 2009 at Fort Campbell, Ky. The team includes expertise from the Fires Center (Air Defense Artillery), USAACE, representation from the Project Manager (PM) for the Tactical Airspace Integration System (TAIS), and trainers from the Army Joint Support Team (AJST) located at Hurlburt Field, Fla. The training derives from an approved Program of Instruction (POI) and involves an academic portion as well as a Practical Exercise (PE) venue. The Mobile Training Team (MTT) is currently under resourced and occur based on demand from commanders. Additionally, USAACE continues to integrate graduating levels of BAE doctrine along with recently deployed trends into the Professional Military Education (PME) system (NCO, warrant officer, and officer). Increasing the awareness of the ADAM/BAE serves to reduce communication barriers and increase utilization when presented with this highly capable asset. USAACE continues to consider leveraging all current venues which include the Aviation Training Exercise (ATX) to marry up the BAE with a deploying Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB).

Through the Pre-Command Course (PCC) and Division Commanders Course (DCC), USACE is highlighting to future leaders the importance of managing officers and NCOs in these organizations for both career management and the future organizations they will serve. These aviation officers, NCOs, and Soldiers should have the oversight of the CAB commander to ensure their professional development and career development remains on track.

Why is this important to the Army and Army Aviation?

Army Aviation remains the most flexible and viable means for the deployed commander to quickly execute routine and complex combat operations. Integrating aviation operations into the BCT commander's scheme is essential to ensure our every aspect of current and future combat actions are properly planned, thoroughly resourced, coordinated and routinely validated based on capabilities available. To sustain this critical support to the Warfighter and our BCT commanders, Army Aviation must continue to mold and shape the BAE to enable our aviation organizations to execute their full range of missions, ultimately meeting the objectives of the commander in any given Area of Operation. The BAE is already proved itself a critical enabler for the BCT.

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